

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 259

By Harrison

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of J. W. Salley of Church Hill.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of J. W. Salley; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Salley was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities. He rendered sterling service as a teacher, coach, and principal in the Hawkins County School System during a career which spanned thirty-three years; and

WHEREAS, J. W. Salley was a talented football player during his years at Dobyns-Bennett High School, from which he graduated in 1946, and continued his grid iron excellence at the University of Mississippi, where he played for legendary coach Johnny Vaughn; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Salley became the head coach of the Church Hill High School football team in 1955, holding that position until 1980 when the high schools in Hawkins County consolidated and Church Hill High School became Church Hill Middle School. As he stepped away from coaching, he stepped into administration, serving as Church Hill Middle's principal until his retirement in 1988; and

WHEREAS, during his years as the head coach of the Church Hill Panthers, J. W. Salley led his teams to unparalleled levels of success. He led the Panthers to an undefeated season, the first of several under his guidance, only two years after first taking the reins; and

WHEREAS, Coach Salley led his teams to several Exchange Bowl victories, an appearance in the 1970 Optimist Bowl, and a state championship playoff appearance in 1978, and he was recognized for coaching his teams to more than 100 victories between 1955 and 1979, the final year for the Panthers football program; and

WHEREAS, over the years, J. W. Salley earned the respect and admiration of his community, which honored him for his many accomplishments by dedicating the J. W. Salley Field at Mike Johnson Memorial Stadium in his honor in 2009; and

WHEREAS, he was deeply devoted to his family, and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Salley was preceded in death by his parents, Claude Haskel and Lena Bell Salley, and his siblings, David Salley, his twin brother and fellow "Touchdown Twin," Edgar Salley, Annas Ketron, and Lucille Carr; and

WHEREAS, J. W. Salley enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of fifty-six years, Betty Clonce Salley, and was the proud father and father-in-law of Sherry and Mike Hooks, Patty Salley, and Tim and Kim Salley; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Salley will be sorely missed by his grandchildren, Laura Hooks, Lindsay Hooks Richards, Michael Jay Hooks, Leslie Salley, and Jacey Salley; his sister, Iva Jean Hicks; his brothers, Mervin Salley and Don Salley; and a host of nieces, nephew, friends, and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, J. W. Salley leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of J. W. Salley, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Salley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.